

**Addendum 2****PROGRAM REPORTS****BASIN PLANNING PROGRAM**

Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act requires each Regional Board to formulate and adopt water quality control plans, or basin plans, for all areas within the Region. The Porter-Cologne Act also requires each Regional Board to establish water quality objectives to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses and a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives within the basin plans. Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 131 requires each State to adopt water quality standards by designating water uses to be protected and adopting water quality criteria that protect the designated uses. In California, the beneficial uses and water quality objectives are the State's water quality standards.

Region 5 has two Basin Plans covering the Region: one for the Tulare Lake Basin and one for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins. The Region 5 Basin Plans, like those in other regions, were originally adopted in 1975. Major basin planning efforts included updates and revisions in 1984, 1989, 1994 and 1998. In addition, about every three years, a triennial basin plan review is completed that assesses the appropriateness of existing standards and evaluates and prioritizes basin planning issues.

**Current Status**

In the past, our Basin Planning budget varied from a high of about 3 PYs to its current low of about 0.6 PYs annually. Virtually all of our current allocation is used to support Triennial Reviews and to maintain a current basin plan. Our next Triennial Review is due this year.

Recently, interested parties have provided resources for us to address issues of mutual concern. Many of these interested parties are dischargers interested in effluent dominated water bodies. Following are brief descriptions of these efforts:

- Revision of the water quality objectives for Ph, turbidity and temperature in Deer Creek, in El Dorado County
- Development of a regionwide basin plan amendment for Ph and turbidity: the rationale for the amendment would be similar to what was previously adopted for Deer Creek
- Evaluation of beneficial uses in Old Alamo Creek, New Alamo Creek and Ulati Creek: The primary issues are the applicability of beneficial uses for municipal drinking water and cold water aquatic life
- Revisions to the beneficial use designation of West Squaw Creek, a small tributary to Lake Shasta that is irreparably degraded from past mining activities
- Drinking water policy is under development

In addition to the externally funded basin planning activities described above, numerous basin plan amendments for TMDLs have already been processed or are under development. Details on these amendments are in a status report on TMDLs that is part of the January Executive Officer's report.

Since last year, the Regional Board has adopted amendments to the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers Basin Plan to de-designate four beneficial uses for Old Alamo Creek in Solano County and has held a workshop to receive comments for the current triennial review. The triennial review for the Tulare Lake Basin still needs to be started.